

MEDIASCAN TRANSCRIPT
CBS Face the Nation
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Sunday

Sen. Goldwater, General Wallace *Nuddig who is in charge of our troops in Central America, said that, like it or not, we are engaged in the war, the United States is engaged in the war that's going on down there, and he says we have not done what is required of us. What do you think? What is required of us and shall we do it or not? GOLDWATER (Chairman, Intelligence Committee): I think the first thing that's required is for the president to make a new statement of his position, which would be the country's position, on Central America. Now I think this is such an important part of our foreign policy that it's only become really important in the last two months, that if I were the president preparing this paper, I would say if it becomes necessary to save Central America, we will use our troops, our aircraft, our forces. It's that important. And as I say, it's only become that important lately, and I agree with General Nuddig. I read his report, and I think he's correct.

From CBS News, Washington, a spontaneous and unrehearsed news interview on Face the Nation with Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Sen. Goldwater will be questioned by CBS News congressional correspondent Phil Jones, by Elizabeth Drew of New Yorker Magazine and by the moderator, CBS News correspondent George Herman. Face the Nation is produced by CBS News, which is solely responsible for the selection of today's guest and panel.

HERMAN: Sen. Goldwater in your first answer you suggest that President Reagan state a policy of American, United States' willingness to go in with troops into El Salvador. That immediately brings up two questions, one military one political. Let me start on the military one first. You're an old time soldier, Army, Air Corp and Air Force. You remember the Armed Services Committee. What would it take, what would it cost the United States in terms of men and equipment, to go into a place like El Salvador where we might face an unfriendly populous who is not overly fond of Yankees? What would it take for us to go in and solve the problem, clean it up? GOLDWATER: I think the mere threat, if made in a strong way, if made in a way that people will believe, the mere threat would suffice. Now we've lived long enough in this country offering to help other countries and then not helping, failing to help, that our friends around the world very much believe that we're a paper tiger, that I think if the president made it abundantly clear that the Caribbean is our problem now, starting with Cuba, and we would use what forces necessary to maintain Central America, I have a strong feeling we would not have any further trouble. If we had trouble, it's very difficult to answer the question you've asked, because we really don't understand now, at least I don't, the number of plans that would be required, the number of troops or ships. I think we could start with a quarantine, for example, a ship quarantine to make it possible to completely stop supplies going into Nicaragua and San Salvador. We could use aircraft if that became necessary, and you have to keep in mind that they are just completing, I think, a 10,000 foot strip in Nicaragua, where the Russians can land their own equipment.

DREW: Sen. Goldwater, you said the president should make a new statement. He made a speech before Congress not very many weeks ago in which he said, among other things, 'We will never use.... We will not use American troops,' to which he got great applause. Do you think he should not have said that, or has the situation changed